

Labor Sunday

Text; Galatians 6:5 Everyone has his own burden to carry.

Tomorrow is labor day and due to this fact today is considered as labor sunday. Therefore it is apropos that we direct our thoughts and thinking to labor.

Our text is taken from the 6th chapter of Galatians the 5th verse which reads, "Everyone has his own burden to carry." Now to meet the wording of our present day work world we could paraphrase this verse, and it would probably say, "everyone has his own weight to carry." Or, "Everyone must be able to cut the mustard." But to take this verse out of context and to use it as we are, makes it sort of seem like it should have more added to it to give it more meaning. But what would we add? "Everyone has his own burden to carry or else." Or else what? Or should we state that, "Everyone has his own burden to carry, so that such and such will come to pass?" I think we first need to define why each man must carry his own burden.

Have you ever watched two well matched football teams playing a game? In order for either team to move the ball they must work together as a team, or as a well organized unit. Or how about a marching band or marching unit. Each one must make the proper move at the proper time or the result is chaos. Now we could use many other illustrations to point up this fact. But it all adds up to the end result that in order for any group to function well or properly they must work together. This is no less true in our modern day working world. How many times have we seen crippling strikes take place not only here but in all areas of our country? Many of these strikes have hampered and crippled not only the industry involved but other companies who need or make use of its products. Does this type of thing make for harmony or unity in industry? We know it doesn't. But labor and management need to look to themselves for the answer. We can argue pros and cons about both sides. Now we are not going to become enmeshed in a discourse on the whys and wherefores of labor disputes. Let us just suffice it to say that when labor and management get out of step with each other then

neither one is carrying his own burden. This is usually brought about because one side usually forgets that there is another side. In other words labor which is usually represented by a union, forgets that management has a side to offer too. Management on the other hand seems to forget that there is such a thing as labor. It all amounts to a vicious circle. It is sort of like the city boy who was visiting his cousin in the country. They were walking through the pasture when the boys heard an peculiar buzzing sound. The city boy started to investigate, but the country boy grabbed him by the arm and hurried him away from that spot. Lets get out of here he shouted, it's a rattlesnake and if you go near it it will strike. Gosh replied the city boy, do they have unions too? But you see we need both unions and management. But what we need most is dedicated men and women on both sides who are ready and willing to carry their own burdens. We need people who will be just and fair, and willing to compromise once in a while. And we need the church going people to lead the way. We need to stand up and try to do things as Jesus would have done them. We have all seen the results of people in industry who shirk their duty. Who do not carry their own burdens. It not only makes it tougher on other people but it causes friction and ill will. Just think of the possibilities if everyone in labor and management carried their own burdens. They would not only each increase their respective material benefits, but the community and the nation as a whole would benefit. This is why it is important that each man be willing to carry his own burden.

Next we find that each man must carry his own burden in his personal life. Almost all of us wear many faces during the course of a day. We may wear the face of a husband, a wife, a mother, father, son, daughter, office clerk, housewife, bookkeeper, secretary, mail carrier, laborer, insurance salesman and so on. But with each face, we bear the responsibility which is connected with the face. For instance if we are a husband then we have the duty and responsibility to provide and make a home for our wife. If we are a father then it is our duty to try to raise our children the very best way we possibly can. But what is the normal thing in society today? Just the opposite it seems. We touched on this very briefly last week. A certain segment of our people seem to be trying to escape whatever

they can escape. We see husbands deserting their wives and families. We see wives trying to escape their duties and their families. Many children are leaving home as never before. In many families both the husband and the wife work with no thought whatever as to the children and what they will or may do in the absence of both parents. Then we rant and rave about juvenile delinquency. I even know of cases where a baby sitter is hired and the pay of the sitter is or comes close to the amount of the wife's pay. So what pray tell would be the advantage of this wife working? But you see, that isn't the point. We are living in a society today that doesn't want to carry it's burden. The object of the game is to let someone else carry the burden or as much of it as they will. Just do only what you absolutely have to do in other words. Part of this I think is due to the fact that we have more giveaway programs in our country than we have ever had in our history. And there is talk of increasing this even more according to one of the candidates running for the presidency. It has even been said by one of the political parties that they want to take care of us from the cradle to the grave. Some of this care is necessary and worthwhile. However much of it is a downright waste. If all this care amounts to, ^{is} giving handouts to people, or giving them something for which they need not work or earn, then it is not the proper thing. Now don't get me wrong. I believe there is a need for some of this welfare. But we have gotten ridiculous with some of it. You and I both know of cases where the undeserving are getting assistance and handouts simply because they happen to know the right person or party. Again I say I am not going to give a dissertation on politics or the welfare state. But the point I am making is this. Our country was founded by men and women who believed sincerely that each individual was responsible for taking care of himself and his family. This meant caring for his own debts, looking after his own property, and trying to provide for his old age. Carrying his own burden in other words. Now I am still old fashioned enough to believe that this is just as true in the year 1968 as it was in 1776. But unfortunately the general feeling we have is that if we can't get by on our own then someone ^{else} will take care of us. If we can't carry our own burdens then someone else will do it for us. What difference does it make? But

you see we not only have the obligation of carrying our burdens, but we have the moral responsibility to carry them. Each man should be trying to care for himself and his family to the best of his ability. Now this may require him to be thrifty, persevering, ^{STICK TO IT} wise and perhaps discipline himself to the point where he may have to forego a few of life's little pleasures in order to meet this goal. But if we each try to carry our own burdens in our personal lives it will not only benefit us, but it will benefit our friends and neighbors and strengthen all of us. And it will place less of a burden on generations yet to come.

Then each man must carry his own burden in his spiritual life. Too often in the past we have relegated religion to only a Sunday type of thing. When we mentioned religion it meant Church and that was on Sunday. But we have come to realize that the other six days of the week count too. We have come to realize that a person should be a Christian on Monday, Tuesday or Saturday as well as on Sunday. Our Christianity should go with us wherever we go every day. An article in Christianity Today points out that, "Too many Christians think that work is either a curse or, at best only a practical necessity." Work was endorsed by the founder of Christianity. Jesus in other words. He not only worked Himself, but made reference to it many times. He told the story of the workers being hired to work in the vineyard. He said that, "The worker is worthy of his hire." If we can look at work as being not only a necessary ^{THING} ~~and~~ but as something ordained by God then perhaps we can have a different outlook about the entire subject. The story is told of the farmer who was asked what time he went to work in the morning, and he replied, "Son, I don't go to work in the morning. I'm surrounded with it when I get up." Now this is one way to look at it. But perhaps if we surround ourselves with an attitude of love for work then maybe we can use work for the proper purpose. Many times work is a drudge and many times we can get bored with it. But if we try to keep the thought that we are doing something worthwhile it may take on new meaning. Sir Christopher Wren, ^{FAME - 1347-1702} told of stopping to talk with some stone masons who were laboring at their trade. He asked one fellow what he was doing and he received the rather grudging reply,

Salem Limestone 9:30 9/1/68

*Processional Hymn 7
*Call to Worship Page 405
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Epistle Galatians 6: 1-2
Gospel Matt. 20: 1-16

Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem 7/7
Announcements

B. Graham Sat 7th 7:30 Pch Picnester
bus leaves 4:45, Sac lunch

44 K... 2K / 9/17/68

LPCA 2000 6. 10. 11

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 7/7
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 127
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

St. John's Lenten 1:00 9/1/68

*Processional Hymn 13
*Call to Worship 77. 205
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Epistle Galatians 6: 1-2
Gospel Matt. 20: 1-16

*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer & Response
Anthem
Announcements

B. Graham Sat. 7th, Pch. 1v 4:45
sack lunch

Offering, Prayer
Hymn 162
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 342
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude